



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 203**

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE-WIDE SEXUAL ABUSE AND  
ASSAULT AWARENESS PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2       2015, the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with  
3       the Departments of Education and Social Services and Connecticut  
4       Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., or a similar entity, shall identify or  
5       develop a state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness program for  
6       use by local and regional boards of education. Such program shall be  
7       implemented in each public school and shall include:
- 8       (1) Instructional modules for all teachers to include training  
9       regarding the prevention and identification of, and response to, child  
10      sexual abuse and assault;
- 11      (2) Age-appropriate educational materials for students in grades  
12      two to five, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and assault that  
13      may include, but not be limited to, (A) warning signs that a child  
14      victim of sexual abuse or assault may display, and (B) resources to  
15      further student, teacher and parental education and outreach, which  
16      materials the Department of Education shall make available on its  
17      Internet web site; and
- 18      (3) A uniform child sexual abuse and assault response policy and

19 reporting procedure that may include, but not be limited to, (A)  
 20 actions that child victims of sexual abuse and assault may take to  
 21 obtain assistance, (B) intervention and counseling options for child  
 22 victims of sexual abuse and assault, (C) access to educational resources  
 23 to enable child victims of sexual abuse and assault to succeed in  
 24 school, and (D) uniform procedures for reporting instances of child  
 25 sexual abuse and assault to school staff members.

26 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall  
 27 implement the sexual abuse and assault awareness program identified  
 28 or developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

29 (c) No student in grades two to five, inclusive, shall be required by  
 30 any local or regional board of education to participate in the sexual  
 31 abuse and assault awareness program offered within the public  
 32 schools. A written notification to the local or regional board by the  
 33 student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the  
 34 student from such program in its entirety or from any portion thereof  
 35 so specified by the parent or legal guardian.

36 (d) If a student is exempted from the sexual abuse and assault  
 37 awareness program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the local  
 38 or regional board of education shall provide, during the period of time  
 39 in which the student would otherwise be participating in such  
 40 program, an opportunity for other study or academic work.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section
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**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.